GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2834
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
MEDICAL FACILITY IN ISLANDS
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities available for the people of Lakshadweep in medical emergency and in the absence of concerned specialties in the Territory;

(b) the total number of patients evacuated to mainland by special sortie helicopter and the total amount involved for such medical evacuations during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide medical emergency services in remote islands from the amount involved on evacuation of patients; and

(d) if not, the measures taken/to be taken by the Government to make specialized Medical facilities available in Lakshadweep/remote islands?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): In case of any medical emergency in remote islands, the patients are brought to the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavarati if concerned specialists are available. If doctors of the particular specialty required are not available in Kavaratti, the patients are evacuated to recognized hospital at mainland by helicopter/Indian Airlines flight.

(b): Total number of patients evacuated to mainland and from other islands to Kavaratti by special sortie of helicopter and the total amount involved is as follows:-

S.No.	Year	Number of evacuation sorties	Approximate cost (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2003-04	156	335.40
2.	2004-05	135	295.65
3.	2005-06	166	370.18
Total		457	1001.23

(c) & (d): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is deputing specialists (Pediatrician, Gynaecologist, Surgeon and Anaesthetist) to Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavaratti for duration of 90 days each against vacant posts. The Union Territory Administration is trying to get services of specialists from hospitals in the mainland.